[1st November 1935

A.—*Curator.*—A first-class or second-class degree of B.A. (Hons.) or M.A. of the University of Madras in History, Economics and Politics with one or more periods of Indian History as special subject; or a degree of any other University which is considered by the Madras Services Commission to be equivalent to B.A. (Hons.) or M.A. degree of the Madras University. Candidates who have specialized in the History of British India and the Madras Presidency are given preference. After appointment, the selected candidate is required to undergo for a period not exceeding six months in England a special study of the technique of the preservation of records.

Assistant Curator.—Administrative experience and ability to control a large staff.

Irrigation

Settlement of the question of the extent of the basin of the Palar in Chittoor district.

* 384 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government settled the question as to what forms the basin of the Palar;

(*b*) whether representatives of the Chittoor district were consulted before the Government fixed the basin of the Palar in Chittoor district;

(*c*) how far the tributaries of the Palar in Chittoor district are away from the main river;

(*d*) when the Government arrived at the conclusion that penal assessment should be levied in Chittoor and Palmaner taluks;

(*e*) how much of the penal assessment has been collected fasliwar;

(*f*) the sources from which the water was used for which the penal assessment was levied; and

(*g*) how many persons applied for remission in Chittoor taluk and how many were granted and how many were refused?

A.—(*a*) Questions such as the one referred to by the hon. Member are not settled by the Government. The basin of a river covers the area bounded by the watershed separating the catchment of that river from the catchment of adjacent rivers and is the result of natural geological forces. If any area is found to drain into a river or any of its tributaries it is said to lie within that basin and the survey of the basin is made on that basis. Thus the Palar basin (above the Palar anicut) comprises portions of Mysore and of the Palmaner,

1st November 1935]

Chittoor and Chandragiri taluks and the Punganur division of the Chittoor district and of the Tirupattur, Vellore, Gudiyattam and Walajapet taluks and the Kangundi division of the North Arcot district.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) All the chief tributaries of the Palar flowing in the Chittoor district fall into the Palar almost at right angles, and the distance of any point in the tributaries from the main river will be roughly equal to its distance along the tributary above the point of its confluence.

(*d*) In June 1931, the Government directed that in future no dry land in the Palar basin should be transferred to and registered as wet, that no single crop wet land should be registered as double crop wet and that the charge for a second crop on wet land should not be compounded in that area. The Government have called for a report as to whether the penal assessment referred to by the hon. Member is the outcome of these orders.

(*e*) *to* (*g*) The Government have no information. They have called for a report.

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar:—" In the answer to clause (*d*) it is stated that 'in June 1931, the Government directed that in future no dry land in the Palar basin should be transferred to and registered as wet, that no single crop wet land should be registered as double crop wet and that the charge for a second crop on wet land should not be compounded in that area.' May I know the reason for that order?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" I believe the order was passed because the amount of water available in the Palar basin was inadequate and extensive cultivation would affect the areas which are already under cultivation."

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar:—" May I know in what area or in what district the inadequacy was felt?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" I think throughout the Palar basin."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know what measures Government have taken to remedy the complaint of diminished water in the Palar river and that it has been caused by obstruction in areas other than the basin?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" I think I have already answered the question on several occasions in this House."

Mr. C. R. Parthasarathi Ayyangar:—" In the answer to clause (*a*) it is stated 'If any area is found to drain into a river or any of its tributaries it is said to lie within that basin and the survey of the basin is made on that basis.' May I know when this survey was made?"

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" Notice, Sir."

[1st November 1935

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that a committee of this House went into the question and has made a preliminary report and the Government have called for further information some time ago, and the same is not still forthcoming? "

The Hon. Mr. C. A. Souter:—" I think I have already answered that question. What the hon. Member says is quite true."

Irrigation facilities in South Kanara.

* 385 *Q.*—Mr. M. S. Sreshta: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any examination has been made of the suggestions made by me in my speech in the Legislative Council on the 15th March 1933, during the discussion on Demand VI of the Budget—

(i) that permanent dams with sluices be provided in the rivers in Kasaragod taluk in South Kanara; and

(ii) that some system of damming the river at Gurpur in South Kanara or of using deep water pumps be adopted to irrigate the lands on either side of the river during the dry season; and

(*b*) whether, to encourage all cultivation and especially sugarcane cultivation, any scheme has been examined, of constructing tanks for the storage of rain water in South Kanara district which now mostly flows into the sea?

A.—(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the reply of Sir Archibald Campbell to the Budget debate (extracted below)—

" Then, as regards Malabar and South Kanara, a complaint was made that they are left without any irrigation works. I think, Sir, it is generally recognized that they are blessed with a very lavish rainfall which nature has provided for them. They have, however, not been altogether neglected. I have here a note showing that in recent years five schemes have been investigated and given up on financial or other grounds, or are waiting until the requirements of the Ceded districts have been met. A suggestion has been made that in these two districts, we should substitute masonry dams for the mud dams put up by the ryots across rivers every year. That was investigated in 1929 and was given up because the permanent dams would impede free flow, would interfere with navigation and were likely to cause flooding in neighbouring lands. If there are mud dams, they are washed away when floods come down the rivers, I can realize that it is a nuisance to have to replace them but if permanent dams are put up there would be a great risk of flooding the neighbouring fields."